CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Office of Current Intelligence 9 September 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The India-Pakistan Situation (Report #23 - As of 1100 A.M. EDT)

1. Conflicting claims are still being made by both sides about the status of the battle fronts.

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A heavy battle was said to be in progress west of the Indian city of Amritsar. This, if confirmed, would be the first serious penetration of undisputed Indian territory by Pakistani forces.

- 2. A Pakistani spokesman has now modified earlier claims that a number of Indian paratroops had been dropped near Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi and other West Pakistan cities. The spokesman said that in fact only some "saboteurs" were dropped, and that most of these were rounded up without having done any damage.
- 3. Secretary General Thant is currently in Rawalpindi conferring with Pakistani officials and plans to leave the city on Saturday. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Balewa of Nigeria has proposed that a Commonwealth Peace Mission be sent to Pakistan and India to assist in effecting a cease fire.

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Communist China continues to apply pressure on New Delhi. Following the nasty note to India yesterday, Foreign Minister Chen Yi reportedly has now called for the withdrawal of all Indian troops from Kashmir. He made this demand during an interview in Algiers.

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5. There are still no reports of serious communal disturbances. The situation in Calcutta remains peaceful and there are no indications of a significant migration of Muslims residing in India along the border with East Pakistan. The Calcutta press thus far has played down reported arrests of Muslims on espionage charges. Indian officials in the area, however, apparently intend to implement previously developed plans to intern border Muslims suspected of disloyalty.

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7. The Indian naval blockade, previously reported as contemplated by New Delhi, will be imposed along the Pakistani coast. The action apparently was motivated by Pakistan's requests for help to the CENTO nations and Indonesia with the possibility that any assistance granted would be sent by sea.

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8. The Indian Army reportedly is suffering from an acute shortage of portable bridging equipment.

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All areas of fighting involve numerous river crossings in any advances.